

## Message Text

SECRET

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51

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY NEA TASK FORCE:INR/RNA:RMERRICK

APPROVED BY NEA TASK FORCE:MSTERNER

ARN - MR. KORN

IAI - MR. WALKER

S/S-O -GTWOHIE

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O P 202007Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 208660

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: E AND E PLANNING

REF: CAIRO 4077; STATE 207763

1. FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT PREPARED FOR YOUR OWN USE. IS  
NOT TO BE SHARED WITH ANYONE INCLUDING NATO COLLEAGUES IN  
CAIRO.

2. MOST RECENT INFORMATION FROM ISRAELIS INDICATES THEIR  
FORCES, NOW IN AT LEAST DIVISION STRENGTH AND EQUIPPED  
WITH ABOUT 300 TANKS, HAVE LAUNCHED THREE-PRONGED THRUST  
WEST OF CANAL FROM CROSSING POINT AT DEVERSOIR: ONE AT  
SECRET

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ABU SUWEIR, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO MOVE WESTWARD, ANOTHER

SOUTH ALONG LAKES TOWARD SUEZ CITY, AND THIRD SOUTH-WEST TOWARD GABAL EL-GAFRA TO INTERDICT ROAD AND RAILWAY BETWEEN CAIRO AND SUEZ. ISRAELIS HAVE PENETRATED AT LEAST AS FAR AS ABU SUWEIR, OR ABOUT 20 KMS. WEST OF CANAL. ALSO ARE OPERATING IN VICINITY OF GABAL EL-GAFRA ABOUT 30 KMS. WEST OF ISRAELI BRIDGEHEAD. DRIVE TOWARD SUEZ SEEMS TO HAVE STALLED-ISRAELI BRIEFER LATE ON OCTOBER 19 SEEMED MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SUCCESS OF OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF MOUNTING EGYPTIAN RESISTANCE.

2. INTENTIONS OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. ISRAELIS DO NOT SHARZ THEIR MILITARY OBJECTIVES WITH US. IDF BRIEFINGS OF TEL AVIV DATT, WHICH ALSO BEING REPEATED TO YOU, ARE

MAIN SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRESS ON BATTLE-FIELD. ISRAELIS WOULD NO DOUBT LIKE TO ANNIHILATE EGYPTIAN ARMY BY ENVELOPMENT BUT WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE THIS OBJECTIVE MAY DEPEND TO SOME EXTENT ON CASUALTIES THEY ARE TAKING (ABOUT WHICH OR HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION) AND ON WHETHER ANY CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL LEAVES THEM IN SUFFICIENTLY ATTRACTIVE POSITION ON GROUND. IF MILITARY OPERATIONS CONTINUE, WE DOUBT CAIRO CONSIDERED BY ISRAELIS AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN ITSELF, BUT WOULD NOT RULE OUT AIRSTRIKES AND OTHER ACTIONS DESIGNED TO DESTROY VERY SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAPABILITY WHEREVER IT IS LOCATED. POSSIBILITY OF DEEP PENETRATION RAIDS AND ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE EGYPTIAN INFRASTRUCTURE WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON ISRAELI ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS OF CURRENT OPERATIONS.

3. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GIVE YOU UP-TO-DATE REPORTS ON BATTLEFIELD SITUATION AS WE UNDERSTAND IT. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

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